DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO



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November 22, 2013 PSA # 13-47 **CONTACT:** Melissa German

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County of San Bernardino, Department of Public Health Participated in 2013 Statewide Medical and Health Functional Exercise

The County of San Bernardino, Department of Public Health in partnership with the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA) coordinated the 2013 Statewide Medical and Health Functional Exercise on November 21, 2013.

The purpose of this exercise was to provide local preparedness and response partners an opportunity to evaluate emergency response plans to a medical or public health emergency. This year's exercise focused on the Homeland Security Target Capabilities which includes Medical Surge, Communication, Emergency Operations Center Management, Emergency Public Information and Warning, and Public Health Epidemiological Surveillance using the scenario of a foodborne disease outbreak.

Other agencies involved in the exercise included: Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency, County Office of Emergency Services, County Fire Department, hospitals, emergency medical services, ambulance providers, Indian Health Services, long term care facilities and specialty hospitals.

The goals of the functional exercise were to:

- Improve medical surge capacity relative to a food-borne emergency among medical and health partners.
- Improve healthcare system response.
- Enhance communications across all levels of the medical health system.
- Improve resource requesting and information sharing across all levels of the medical health system.
- Activate and utilize Incident Command System (ICS) principles (ICS, Hospital Incident Command System, and Standardized Emergency Management System) across all levels of the medical health system.

These types of exercises provide the Department of Public Health and the Regional Disaster Medical Health Specialist the opportunity to test and evaluate emergency response plans within the County of San Bernardino.

For more information, please contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Preparedness and Response Program at (909) 252-4406.

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